

ABSTRACT**MACHINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF BEVERAGES**

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A low pressure beverage preparation system for automatically preparing a range of beverage types from a range of beverage cartridges, the system comprising:

- a beverage preparation machine;
- 10 and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients associated with a specific beverage type, wherein the beverage preparation system comprises:
- a. means for receiving one of said plurality of beverage cartridges in said beverage preparation machine and means for supplying, in use, to said beverage cartridge an aqueous medium at a pressure of less than 2 bar to produce a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients contained therein;
- 15 b. a reader in said beverage preparation machine for automatically interpreting a code written on said beverage cartridge;
- c. processing means for creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;
- 20 d. means for automatically adjusting a temperature of said aqueous medium based on said code prior to supply of said aqueous medium to the beverage cartridge;
- 25 e. means in at least some of said plurality of beverage cartridges for optionally, dependant on

beverage type, producing foaming of the beverage;
and

f. a user interface for initiating an operating
cycle;

5 wherein the beverage preparation system can
produce a range of beverage types including at
least, but not limited to, filtered coffee,
cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, and
wherein operation of the user interface is
10 independent of the beverage type being dispensed.